

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SHARON HAWKINS

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, along with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO, Senator JIM RISCH, and Congressman RUSS FULCHER, I rise to call attention to the outstanding career of Sharon Hawkins, who worked for over 30 years on public policy to better the lives of Idahoans. Sharon, served the last fifteen years of her career as the Director of Operations for Idaho's largest business association, the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, IACI. Sharon not only made sure every detail of the office ran smoothly, but she was an extremely vital resource to the 300 plus business members who make up that important organization.

Before joining IACI, she was the administrative coordinator for the Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association, executive assistant to the Chairman and CEO of MGM and United Artists Communications, and the office administrator for the investment banking firm, Merrill Lynch.

For many, Sharon is an encyclopedia of historical and policy knowledge in the Gem State. She knows every player in the business world, not only because she worked with them, but because she became a caring friend to those who crossed her path.

Sharon is the person you go to when you need things done right. She never left a detail on the table, or a task undone during her time of service. From orchestrating some of the most important business events in modern Idaho history—to making sure Vice President Dick Cheney had a Diet Coke, Sharon never missed a beat.

Her ability to spark conversations, tireless work ethic, and thorough knowledge of Idaho policy history and business acumen will be missed among all who've worked with her over her three decades of service. We all wish her the best in her retirement and to get some much-needed rest and relaxation with her husband Cory and her three sons. I thank Sharon for her service to Idaho.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JONAH KREPPS

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the distinguished accomplishments of Cadet Chief Petty Officer Jonah Krepps of Uncasville, Connecticut. As a young resident of Eastern Connecticut, Cadet Krepps's committed service to the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) was recognized on February 4, 2022, in his promotion to the rank of Cadet Chief Petty Officer.

Chartered in 1962 by an act of Congress, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a non-profit youth group that helps provide young Americans aged 10 through 18 with key maritime, leadership and teamwork skills. Supporting 9,000 cadets in 380 units in 47 states including Connecticut, the program also provides young Americans with valuable experience that they can use if they go on to join the Armed Services. For Cadet Chief Petty Officer Jonah Krepps, this has meant their longtime membership in the Nautilus Division, which is stationed at the home of our nation's undersea force, SUBASE New London.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the House Armed Service Committee, which has made sure that Congress follows through on its commitments to this program, I know firsthand the valuable work that the cadets and their leaders do each and every day. This year the Nautilus Division recognizes the dedication and work ethic of Jonah, and it is conferring the honor of being promoted to the position of Cadet Chief Petty Officer during the Corps' 60th anniversary of preparing our nation's next generation of leaders. To that end, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in thanking Cadet Chief Petty Officer Krepps for his initiative and wishing him well in his future endeavors. Bravo Zulu.

SALUTING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF NOAH ASSAD

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise to salute Noah Assad for his many positive contributions to Los Angeles, both as a prominent soccer player and as an active member of our Los Angeles community.

Noah Assad was born on May 5, 1990, in Puerto Rico. He is co-founder and CEO of the record company Rimas Entertainment and the Rimas Foundation and is the representative of the internationally known artist, Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio.

Mr. Assad acquired his gift for navigating the music business early. At age fourteen, he was organizing events in his native Carolina, Puerto Rico, bringing in hundreds of people; by age nineteen, he was booking local reggaeton acts to perform in Colombia. Assad started releasing free reggaeton compilations to increase demand for the acts he worked with. His success continued and Assad launched his own label, Rimas Entertainment, in 2014.

Assad has established himself as active leader in his fields. He is a hands-on strategist and a philanthropic citizen who utilizes his talents to create unique opportunities for all ages to thrive and effectively impact the world. His efforts have improved the lives of others and laid the groundwork to improve the quality of

life of those he encounters and the community at large.

Madam Speaker, Noah Assad has shown exemplary commitment to the people of Los Angeles and beyond, and I am pleased to recognize his work as a music executive and philanthropist. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his many contributions and his positive impact.

THREAT FROM FENTANYL FLOWING OVER OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address a catastrophic mass death in our country because of our open borders—all due to fentanyl.

Fentanyl is freely flowing across our southern border as seizures increased by nearly 135 percent in 2021 under Joe Biden's lax immigration enforcement.

In FY 2021, Customs and Border Protection seized 11,201 pounds of fentanyl, a historic rate that is more than all that was seized in 2018 and 2019 combined. This amounts to enough fentanyl to cause 2,540,341,996 deaths, or more than 7 times the U.S. population.

The free flow of this deadly drug across our border is a direct result of the Biden administration's open border policies. The fact is, Joe Biden continues to ignore and fails to address the record high overdose deaths caused from deadly fentanyl-related substances crossing our border.

As a result, the scourge of fentanyl is destroying our communities, killing our children and devastating our families.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. overdose deaths reached a devastating new height in 2021, claiming a new victim every five minutes.

There is a direct link between fentanyl-related overdose deaths and criminal drug cartels in Mexico. The ease in which the drug cartels operate is shocking. The cartels control the borders and are taking full advantage of Joe Biden's weak immigration policies.

Last December, in my home state of Arizona, the Scottsdale Police Department and the Arizona Attorney General's Office seized a record 1.7 million fentanyl pills and 10 kilograms of fentanyl powder.

During a recent two-month public safety surge, the DEA Phoenix Field Division announced total seizures of over three million fentanyl pills and 45 kilograms of fentanyl powder.

Just one fentanyl pill can kill. Yet our open borders remain a fentanyl pipeline.

Instead of securing our southern border to stop the flow of fentanyl, Mr. Biden has doubled down on his open-border policies that will

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

only worsen the ongoing border crisis and destroy more communities and lives.

Just because Joe Biden ignores the fentanyl crisis doesn't mean Congress should. Congress must address the crisis at the border.

Congress must also take action and permanently place fentanyl-related substances in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. The emergency class-wide scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances is set to expire on February 18, 2022.

Speaker PELOSI and the Democrats are wrong to allow this order to expire.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF JULIE THOMAS FROM THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, along with my colleagues, Senator MIKE CRAPO and Senator JAMES E. RISCH, I rise to call attention to retirement of Julie Thomas from the U.S. Forest Service.

Like many Forest Service employees, Julie started her career in 1980 as a seasonal employee. She was hired as a Seasonal Recreation Technician/Fire Technician on the Twin Falls Ranger District in Sawtooth Forest. Julie worked in a seasonal capacity on the District until August 1990, when she was offered the Resource Assistant position on the Twin Falls District.

In October of 1994, while still a Forest Service employee, Julie became the Mid-Snake Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Coordinator. She was one of only two Forest Service employees shared with the Natural Resource Conservation Service in the position of RC&D Coordinator. As coordinator, she worked and developed relationships with many local community leaders and initiated projects to help south central Idaho. During her tenure as coordinator, she accomplished many worthwhile projects, including spearheading a \$2.5 million request for a congressional funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, which helped producers in Minidoka County address closing antiquated drain wells and partnering with the Shoshone District Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Power, South Central Idaho Tourism and Recreation Development Association, and the College of Southern Idaho to update the Mid-Snake Recreation Study.

Julie worked as the RC&D Coordinator until November of 2009, when she accepted the position as Public Affairs Officer on the Sawtooth National Forest. In this role, she worked with Incident Management Teams throughout the country, grew and maintained the South-Central Idaho Resource Advisory Committee, built relationships between the Forest Service and the Idaho Congressional Delegation, was a leader in Forest Civil Rights, and was recognized in the Forest Service Intermountain Region as leader in employee deployment and engagement. Above all, Julie was a friend to all in the Forest Service. On December 31, 2021, Julie retired from the Forest Service after a 41-year career.

We thank Julie for her loyal service to the Forest Service and south-central Idaho. We have enjoyed working with her. We hope she enjoys her well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING COLIN DEMAREST

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, congratulations to Colin Demarest, an appreciated journalist of Aiken, South Carolina, for his new assignment at C4ISRNET, a publication covering emerging issues and trends in global military transformation in Washington. A graduate of the University of South Carolina, Colin began his journalism career at The Berkshire View as a featured writer. Later, he became an editor and reporter at Limestone Communications, where he covered government in five different cities and two regional school districts.

When he joined the Aiken Standard, Colin initially focused on reporting on the Aiken city government. After some time, he was assigned to report on the Savannah River Site National Laboratory, a multi-billion dollar facility with about 11,000 employees. At times, this assignment brought him to Washington, D.C., where he reported on anything involving the Savannah River Site.

Colin was thoughtful to come to many events over the years. He would report on my Legislative Agenda Tours, Bus Tours, and any other local events that I attended in South Carolina. As a former journalist myself, I know Colin will be successful at his new assignment reporting from the Pentagon. I wish the best for Colin Demarest in all his future endeavors.

HONORING BUILDER NAVY CHIEF PETTY OFFICER RAYMOND BORDER

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the official renaming of the Gulfport Fitness Center in honor of Builder Chief Petty Officer Raymond Border.

Raymond Border was born on July 22, 1980, in Coshocton, Ohio. He enlisted in the Navy on September 22, 1999. Upon completion of Builder A-school Gulfport, MS BUC Border completed successful tours deploying twice with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion ONE. His daughter, Shelvea Border and son Donovan Border currently still live in Gulfport. His father Craig Border and mother Julie Border live in West Lafayette, Ohio.

A few months after returning home from deployment in 2011 to Afghanistan's Helmand Province with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 BUC Border volunteered for an Individual Augmentee billet on a Provincial Reconstruction Team and returned to Afghanistan, where he lost his life in the line of duty.

For his outstanding service, BUC Border was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star (with combat V), Purple Heart, and Combat Action Ribbon. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Navy Commendation Medal during his previous naval service.

Traditionally Seabee facilities are named after Seabees that have paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country. BUC Border was killed when an improvised explosive device detonated while he was executing a road assessment for a convoy in Paktika Province, Afghanistan, on October 19, 2011.

BUC Border perfectly embodies what it means to be a true American hero and I can think of no better fit than BUC Raymond J. Border the first Seabee, and first Chief Petty Officer from the Seabee Fleet Concentration Area in Gulfport to receive this distinct honor.

His memory proudly represents all Seabees that deployed to Afghanistan and made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Our military servicemembers deserve to be recognized for their commitment to our great nation and I am grateful for his unwavering dedication to our country. The naming of the Fitness Center will allow the Seabees to be able to permanently remember and honor one of their fallen Seabees and Chief Petty Officers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I was unfortunately prevented from voting on Roll Call 42 on February 9, 2022. Had I been present I would have voted no on the En Bloc Amendment to H.R. 3485.

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 11, 2022

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor National President Jean Hamil and all members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary for their outstanding volunteer service to Veterans and their families.

In their 108th year of volunteer service the organization continues to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom by maintaining memorials to their service and sharing their history with our nation's youth to ensure our nation's Veterans will never be forgotten. The 470,000 members of the VFW Auxiliary all represent the families of those who have served or are currently serving on foreign soil protecting our freedom. Member volunteers have conducted nearly one million hours in Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and other hospitals throughout the country. I thank them for their tireless service to our country and to Veterans and their families.